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PATENT

OCT 31 2006 Atty Docket No.: 100110474-2
App. Ser. No.: 09/995,318REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments and following remarks.

Claims 20 and 24 have been amended. Claims 1 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 2-19 were previously canceled. Claims 20-22 and 24-33 are currently pending.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chong (5,335,169) in view of Manzi et al. (6,298,333) and Barnes et al. (5,970,475).

Allowable Subject Matter

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 20-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Telephonic Interview Conducted on October 26, 2006

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephonic interview dated October 26, 2006. In the telephonic interview the Examiner reiterated that claims 20-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, and no new issues would arise from such amendment.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chong in view of Manzi et al. and Barnes et al.

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The rejection of this claim is moot in view of its cancellation as indicated above.
Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Claims 20-26

Per the Examiner's suggestion, allowable claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 1, which has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 and its dependent claims 21 and 22 are allowable over the references of record.

Per the Examiner's suggestion, allowable claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 1, which has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 and its dependent claims 21 and 22 are allowable over the references of record.

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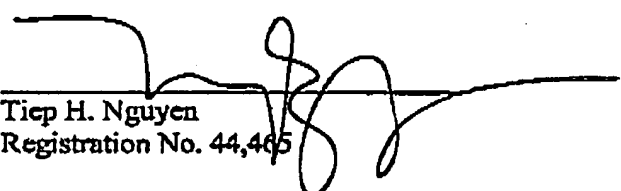
Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections of record and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would assist in resolving any issues pertaining to the allowability of the above-identified application, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below. Please grant any required extensions of time and charge any fees due in connection with this request to deposit account no. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 31, 2006

By


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